

July 10, 2009

Mr. Alfred W. Speer
Clerk of the House of Representatives
State Capitol
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Re: House Bill No. 495 by Representative Dixon

Dear Mr. Speer:

House Bill No. 495 exempts the Ewell S. Aiken Optional School in Rapides Parish from the school accountability laws that require academically unacceptable schools transferred to the jurisdiction of the Recovery School District. While I understand that local and unique factors should be considered, I am concerned that allowing individual districts to opt-out legislatively would weaken the RSD program and undermine our State's commitment to greater accountability. Further, I understand that the Superintendent of Education is working on an agreement with the district to address the issues at the Aiken school.

For these reasons, I have vetoed House Bill No. 495 and hereby return it to the House of Representatives.

Sincerely yours,

Bobby Jindal
Governor

jw